

Application No. 10/785349
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Amendment
Attorney Docket No. S63.2N-9776-US02

Amendments To The Claims:

Claim 1. (Previously Presented) A method of treating a bodily vessel comprising the steps of:
inserting a catheter having a distal portion into a body vessel, the distal portion having an expandable region, an expandable stent being disposed about at least a portion of the expandable region;

advancing the distal portion to a desired location in a bodily vessel;

delivering the stent to the desired location by expanding the expandable region from an unexpanded diameter to an expanded diameter;

delivering heat to the stent during the expansion of the expandable region.

Claim 2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the stent is at least partially constructed of stainless steel.

Claim 3. (Canceled)

Claim 4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the expanded region is expanded by delivering a heated contrast agent to the expandable region.

Claim 5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein a heated contrast agent is delivered to the distal portion as the stent is delivered.

Claim 6. (Currently Amended) A method of treating a bodily vessel comprising the steps of:
advancing a stent delivery catheter comprising a stent constructed substantially of stainless steel disposed about at least a portion of an expandable region to a desired location in a bodily vessel;
delivering the stent in the bodily vessel at the desired location; and heating the stent during delivery.

Claim 7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 6 wherein the stent is conductively heated by directing energy to the stent through a portion of the catheter.

Claim 8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 7 wherein the bodily vessel is heated by the stent.

Claim 9. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 6 wherein the stent is conductively by directing an RF electromagnetic field to the stent desired location.

Claims 10-13. (Canceled)

Claim 14. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 6 wherein the stent is ultrasonically heated.

Claims 15-17. (Canceled)

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Claim 18. (Withdrawn) A stent delivery apparatus comprising:

a catheter having a distal region and an ultrasonic transducer element positioned within the distal region, the ultrasonic transducer element constructed and arranged to generate ultrasonic waves; and

an expandable stainless steel stent, prior to delivery the stent being disposed about at least a portion of the distal region.

Claims 19-29. (Canceled)